

Quotation Marks in Dialogue

- 15j.** When you write dialogue (a conversation), begin a new paragraph every time the speaker changes.

EXAMPLES “I wish I could attend the ball,” said Cinderella.
 “Sorry, my dear. You must stay home and finish your chores,” replied her stepmother.
 “It seems that I’m the only one working around here,” Cinderella complained.

- 15k.** When a quotation consists of several sentences, put quotation marks only at the beginning and the end of the whole quotation.

EXAMPLE “Everybody knows this is totally unfair! But if I finish quickly, maybe I’ll have a chance to go. Who knows? I might even dance with the prince.”

- 15l.** Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation within a quotation.

EXAMPLE “Did she say ‘dance with the prince?’” one of the sisters asked.

EXERCISE Insert any quotation marks that are needed in each of the following sentences. When the speaker changes, draw a paragraph symbol (¶) to show where any new paragraphs should begin.

Examples Ramona asked, “Why do you have that odd look on your face, Whitney?”

¶ “Yeah, I was wondering that, too,” said Christopher.

Looking slowly around the room, Whitney stopped and said, Listen! Did you hear a noise? No, I didn’t hear anything. Do you think you might be imagining things? Ramona answered quietly. I’m worried, Christopher whispered. I heard a strange noise, too. Maybe someone is standing on the back porch! exclaimed Whitney. Let me check the back door, said Christopher in an unsure tone. I’ll go with you, volunteered Whitney. Shaking her head, Ramona said, Oh, you two. Nobody’s standing outside on the porch. Let’s just stay where we are. Christopher teased, Are you afraid to stay in here by yourself? No, silly! she answered. You’re the one who said I’m worried. You know, Whitney replied, our cat does walk around on the porch in the evenings. Now that I think about it, he sometimes makes sounds exactly like the one we just heard.